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New security director takes office

Date: 3/18/2008

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's Department of Homeland Security has a new executive director.

Joseph E. Wainscott Jr. began his duties Monday after the former director resigned to return to Purdue University.

Wainscott has been the department's director of training since 2005. Prior to that, he was law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Indiana and is a 23-year veteran of the Indiana State Police.

Wainscott, who grew up in Madison County, is now responsible for the state's emergency management and homeland security efforts.

Wainscott takes over for J. Eric Dietz, a retired Army colonel who resigned to return to the Purdue Homeland Security Institute as a tenured faculty member in the College of Technology.

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New Indiana Homeland Security Director Takes Office

Story Published: Mar 18, 2008 at 5:58 AM EDT

Story Updated: Mar 18, 2008 at 5:58 AM EDT

By Peter Ambrose

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana's Department of Homeland Security has a new executive director.

Joseph E. Wainscott Jr. began his duties Monday after the former director resigned to return to Purdue University.

Wainscott has been the department's director of training since 2005. Prior to that, he was law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Indiana and is a 23-year veteran of the Indiana State Police.

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INSIDE INDIANA BUSINESS column

BY GERRY DICK | Tuesday, March 18, 2008 | [No comments posted.](#)

New Homeland Security director appointed

There is a new director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Governor Mitch Daniels has named Joseph E. Wainscott to the post. Wainscott has been the department's director of training since October 2005. He grew up in Madison County and takes over from Eric Dietz, who left the post to return to Purdue University.

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New Indiana homeland security director takes office

The Associated Press

March 17, 2008 8:58 AM

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New Indiana homeland security director takes office

Associated Press - March 17, 2008 10:04 AM ET

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana's Department of Homeland Security has a new executive director.

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Published: March 17, 2008 11:20 pm

Family mourns for child killed in fire

Kadence Bigler was a 'bundle of joy and full of life,' father says

By Sue Loughlin

The Tribune-Star

PRAIRIETON — A Vigo County family is mourning the death of 17-month-old Kadence Bigler, who died in a mobile home fire at 5877 South Union Place on Saturday morning.

"She was a bundle of joy and full of life. She wasn't shy around people. She'd run up and jump on anybody," her father, Bill Bigler, said Monday.

"I'm still kind of numb," Bigler said. "I have moments where I'm just incoherent. I'm trying to keep it together. There's so much we have to do for Kadence."

The 17-month-old died from smoke inhalation, said Vigo County Coroner Dr. Roland Kohr.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

"At this time, it appears to be accidental ... and possibly electrical," said Monte Hunt, fire chief with the Prairieton Fire Department, which responded to the fire at 7:05 a.m. Saturday. The trailer did not have a smoke detector, he said.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security fire and building safety division is assisting.

"The fire is still under investigation as far as a cause," said Pam Bright, spokeswoman for the state office.

Meanwhile, the Vigo County Sheriff's Department and Vigo County Child Protective Services are investigating some of the circumstances surrounding the child's death, said Sheriff Jon Marvel.

At the time of the fire, Lacey Bigler — Kadence's mother — had left the mobile home to buy breakfast for her family. Four children were left alone in the mobile home, including Kadence and her sisters, Jazlyn Bigler, age 3 and Kaylon LaFleur, age 7, as well as Kadence's aunt, Julie Ellinger, age 13.

Some questions have been raised about the 13-year-old being left to care for the three younger ones, Marvel said.

When the fire department arrived, the mobile home was fully engulfed with the 17-month-old trapped inside, according to a Vigo County Sheriff's Department report.

When the fire broke out, 3-year-old Jazlyn woke up Ellinger to tell her the trailer was on fire, according to the sheriff's department report. Ellinger got Kaylon and Jazlyn out of the trailer and went back for Kadence, but was unable to save her because of heat and flames, according to the report.

Tim Ellinger, Kadence's grandfather, who lives in a house on the same property, also attempted to save the child, but was unsuccessful. Tim is the father of both Julie Ellinger and Lacey Bigler. Tim Ellinger broke a window and tried to crawl in but was overcome, according to Bill Bigler, who had been at work when the fire broke out.

Representatives of the coroner's office and fire marshal were at the scene Saturday, and the body was removed from the trailer at 9:18 a.m. The Honey Creek Fire Department assisted with the fire.

Bill Bigler said Jazlyn is asking where her younger sister is.

"It just tears me up," he said.

Initially, Bigler said he was angry with his wife, but he said he realizes everyone did the best they could to try to rescue the child.

When he arrived at the scene, the fire was out. Tim Ellinger's face "was just black from trying to get in the window and his hands were cut," Bigler said.

He said his wife, Lacey, had smoke all over her. She also tried to go inside the burning mobile home to rescue her daughter and had to be stopped, Bigler said.

Bigler and his wife were in the process of getting a divorce, and Bigler had not been living in the mobile home at the time of the fire. Kadence and Jazlyn are his children.

Bigler said he hopes that no one faces legal charges in the tragedy.

"It's just going to make it that much worse," Bigler said. "It's not going to solve anything."

His young child's death in a mobile home fire is a senseless tragedy, Bigler said.

Sue Loughlin can be reached at (812) 231-4235 or sue.loughlin@tribstar.com.

[***Return to Fire***](#)

Two weeks left to apply for FEMA disaster assistance

BY THE TIMES | Monday, March 17, 2008 | [No comments posted.](#)

Indiana residents and business owners in the 21 counties included in the presidential disaster declaration have until March 31 to register for disaster assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The 21 counties included in the Indiana presidential disaster declaration are Allen, Benton, Carroll, Cass, Dekalb, Elkhart, Fulton, Huntington, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Tippecanoe, Whitley and White.

Eligible residents and business owners who suffered damage from storms and flooding that began Jan. 7 can register for disaster assistance immediately, officials from FEMA and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security said. Loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration for disaster-related losses to real and personal property also must be submitted by March 31.

"We want people to understand that this deadline is for new disaster applications," said Mike Smith, Federal Coordinating Officer. "For those who already have applied, their cases will continue to be processed. New applications will not be accepted after the March 31 deadline."

Federal and state disaster recovery officials urge eligible residents who have not done so to apply as soon as possible by calling the toll-free registration number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or, for the speech or hearing impaired, TTY 1-800-462-7585. Individuals also may register for disaster assistance at the FEMA website www.fema.gov.

Applicants who have questions about the disaster assistance programs or questions about the status of their previously filed applications should continue to use FEMA's toll-free Helpline at 1-800-621-3362.

[**Return to Flooding**](#)



FEMA Urges Indiana Residents to Prepare for Possible Spring Flooding

Copyright: PR Newswire

Source: PR Newswire

Wordcount: 747

As Spring Approaches, Most of Indiana Remains at Risk

WASHINGTON, March 17 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Flooding has already caused severe damage in twenty-one counties in Indiana this year, and FEMA urges residents to take steps now to protect themselves before more seasonal floods strike. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States, and the spring months bring unique risks to inland states throughout the Midwest. Spring weather brings rapid snowmelt, severe storms and heavy rainfall to Indiana each year, increasing the likelihood of flooding. Despite the increased risks in the area, currently only 1 percent of Indiana residents are insured against flood damage.

This spring marks the 15th anniversary of the Great Floods of 1993 - still one of the largest floods in United States history. During the spring and summer of 1993, nine Midwest states experienced catastrophic flooding that resulted in \$270 million in insured losses and more than \$15 billion in total damages. Although Indiana was one of few Midwest states untouched by the Great Floods of 1993, Indiana's spring flood risk has grown. For example, two floods in the last five Indiana spring seasons have been deemed Presidentially-declared disasters. In 2007, total insured flood losses in Indiana cost more than \$1.5 million in damages.

"Floods pose a threat to every state in our nation and they happen year round - often with little notice," said David Maurstad, Assistant Administrator of Mitigation and Federal Insurance Administrator for FEMA. "We strongly encourage residents in Indiana - and across the country - to include flood insurance in their flood preparedness strategy."

Most homeowners policies do not cover flood damage. Flood coverage must be purchased separately, and there is typically a 30-day waiting period before a new flood insurance policy becomes effective, so the time to purchase a policy is now. Federally backed flood insurance is available to residents, business owners and renters in high and low- to moderate-risk areas.

"Relying on disaster assistance to recover from flooding is taking a big risk," said Maurstad. "In many cases, disaster assistance is not available and, when it is, it comes in the form of a loan that must be paid back with interest. Flood insurance is the best option for financial protection because it is a dependable investment that promotes swift and cost-saving recovery."

Residents are reminded that protecting themselves from flooding requires simple action, including: storing important documents, adhering to local evacuation plans and purchasing flood insurance to protect their financial investment. FEMA also offers the following tips to prepare for flooding:

Before a Flood

- Have a safety kit with drinking water, a first-aid kit, canned food, a radio, flashlight and blankets.
- Know safe routes from home, work and school that are on higher ground.
- Protect your property. Most homeowners insurance does not cover flooding. Make sure that your flood insurance policy is up to date.

During a Flood

- If flooding occurs, go to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- Roadbeds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

After a Flood

- Do not turn electricity back on in your home if you detect gas or if the electrical system has been flooded.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by floodwaters or mudflows and throw out any such foodstuffs.
- Follow directions from local officials regarding the safety of drinking water.

Flood insurance is available through approximately 90 insurance companies in more than 20,400 participating communities nationwide. The average flood insurance policy costs around \$500 a year. Everyone can purchase flood insurance - renters, business owners and homeowners - and last year one-third of all claims paid by the National Flood Insurance Program were for policies in low- to moderate-risk areas. In low- to moderate-risk areas, lower-cost Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs) start at less than \$120 a year. Individuals can learn more about their flood risk and how to protect their property by visiting FloodSmart.gov or by dialing 1-800-427-2419.

FEMA coordinates the Federal Government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or manmade, including acts of terrorism.

SOURCE Federal Emergency Management Agency

CONTACT: FEMA newsdesk, +1-202-646-4600

[**Return to Flooding**](#)



Only two weeks left to apply

Posted: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 10:23 AM CDT

Indiana residents and business owners in the 21 counties included in the presidential disaster declaration have until March 31 to register for disaster assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Eligible residents and business owners who sustained damage from storms and flooding that began during the period Jan. 7 and continuing, should register for disaster assistance immediately, said officials from FEMA and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for disaster-related losses to real and personal property also must be submitted by March 31.

"We want people to understand that this deadline is for new disaster applications," said Mike Smith, Federal Coordinating Officer.

"For those who already have applied, their cases will continue to be processed. New applications will not be accepted after the March 31 deadline."

Federal and state disaster recovery officials urge eligible residents who have not done so to apply as soon as possible by calling the toll-free registration number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or, for the speech or hearing impaired, TTY 1-800-462-7585. Individuals also may register for disaster assistance at the FEMA website www.fema.gov.

Applicants who have questions about the disaster assistance programs or questions about the status of their previously filed applications should continue to use FEMA's toll-free Helpline at 1-800-621-3362.

To date, more than 2,400 Indiana residents have applied for disaster assistance. The total disaster funds approved for individuals affected by the disaster now tops \$12 million, which includes approximately

\$6 million in low-interest SBA disaster loans for individuals and businesses.

[*Return to Flooding*](#)